

PROPOSED RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN AND FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT FOR THE RAWLINS FIELD OFFICE RAWLINS, WYOMING

Lead Agency: U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management

Type of Action: Administrative

Jurisdiction: Portions of Albany, Carbon, Laramie, and Sweetwater Counties

Abstract: This final environmental impact statement (EIS) addresses resource management plans (RMP) for the Rawlins RMP Planning Area (RMPPA). The Rawlins RMP will result in a land use allocation plan for the RMPPA and will provide management direction to address the planning issues that have been identified through the planning process. This RMP and final EIS describe and analyze a reasonable range of management alternatives for the public lands and resources administered by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Rawlins Field Office (RFO). Within the planning area, the RFO administers approximately 3.4 million acres of public land surface and mineral estate, 0.1 million acres of public land surface where the mineral estate is state-owned or private, and 1.2 million acres of federal mineral estate where the surface is state-owned or private.

When the Rawlins RMP is completed, it will provide a comprehensive framework for managing the BLM-administered public lands and resources in the RMPPA. The analysis in this final EIS considers a comprehensive range of alternatives that provide for various levels of resource protection and opportunities for motorized and nonmotorized recreational activities, leasing and development of mineral resources, livestock grazing, and other land use activities. The final EIS analyzes the potential environmental consequences of implementing each management alternative and the potential land allocation/resource use conflicts. Four alternatives that address the issues in the RMPPA have been considered. They are Alternative 1 (No Action Alternative), Alternative 2 (Development of Resources), Alternative 3 (Protection of Resources), and Alternative 4 (Conservation Alternative-Proposed Plan). The proposed Rawlins RMP is a refinement of the Preferred Alternative presented in the draft EIS published in December 2004.

Protests on the proposed Rawlins RMP and final EIS will be accepted for 30 days following the date that the Environmental Protection Agency publishes the notice of filing for this final EIS in the *Federal Register*.

Further information regarding this proposed RMP and final EIS can be obtained from:

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